

Bradenton, Florida – Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today the panel of public health and safety officials who will participate in a public forum Friday in Bradenton to discuss efforts to prepare for and respond to the recent outbreak of swine flu.

“There is no need to panic, but people are right to be concerned about the growing threat posed by swine flu,” said Buchanan. “We have assembled a panel of experts to discuss efforts to prepare for, prevent, and treat the spreading virus.”

Manatee County Health Department Director Dr. Gladys Branic; Manatee County Emergency Management Director Laurie Feagans; Manatee School District Risk Manager Forrest Branscomb; Blake Medical Center CEO Daniel Friedrich; Manatee Memorial Hospital Chief Operating Officer Roy Orr and others will participate in the event on Friday, May 1, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, Manatee County Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West in Bradenton.

Buchanan encouraged members of the public with questions and concerns to attend the event.